THE PULPIT.

AN ELOQUENT SUNDAY SERMON BY THE REV. JOEL S. SLOCUM.

Subject: The Church and the Men.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—The Church and the Men was the subject discussed Sunday morning in the Greenpoint Baptist Church by the Rev. Joel S. Slocum, whose text was Exekiel 16:8: "Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I sware unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord God, and thou becamest mine." Mr. Slocum said, among other things:

It is significant that in the midst of the teaching of the sacredness revealed to Ezekiel there was the expression of a man's hand under the wings of the cherubim as though suggesting their flight.

There has never been a time when the multiplied machinery of Christianity did not depend upon and upon the hand of a man. Never was the presence and power of God so great and all that goes with it more needed than now. Never was the burden upon the great host of faithful witnesses so heavy. Never in the ages have carried forward the burdens of the church, but the day and the hour is more man. I saw, the other day, in the window of a grocery this brief but pressing request: "Wanted, a boy to work in store." Thought flashed upon me that we need to-day in the churches of Christ to grow up to be strong men. No strong boy is content to spend the Sunday-school and then graduate from it, and then drift into the life of the church, but he must be connected with the church, but he must be connected with the church and the royal diadem of the world's surrender to the power and love of our Lord. There is yet much to be done, and the Lord needs workers for the final advance. If all who can be numbered among the faithful for self-glory and not even for the glory of the special cause, but for the glory and triumph of our king, the victory is assured. Then will be comprehend the imperishable truth, that men do not sow seeds and our churches are needed by those among whom they live, not primarily to swell the membership and meet the current expenses, but to be a blessing to all those who with singleness of spirit are moving on to make Christ king. Let us take courage and our inspiration and our example from Him who made no attempt to found a visible church, but who gave His very life to inaugurate a spiritual kingdom. The church is already organized; it now becomes our duty and privilege to take the great cause of subduing the world to Him who is the living head of the church.

This leads me to say that the church that secures the return of the men will be the church that develops an intense missionary spirit. Why? It is not merely because they are men that we want them back, but because they are among those for whom Christ died. I am not filled with alarm at the prospect of a mainless church. It would still be an effective organization committed to a great work. That is not so much afraid of what will happen to the church as I am concerned about what will happen to the men who thus ignore the sweetest privileges of their life.

There are some hopeful signs of the times. Indications favor the impression that the church is awaking to her opportunity. If you look closely at the record of the life of Jesus, you will not be long in discovering that He was not satisfied with the conditions that everywhere prevailed. His whole strength was resolutely set against the tide of ignorance and worldliness that prevailed to sweep men to destruction. He stood out, as no one ever since has, in giving personal illustration of what Paul means by advising that we do not allow ourselves to be conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of our minds. The mission of the church is not to be conformed to the customs and conditions of this age, but to stand in the midst of this age as an effective agency for the lower redemption of society. Not to be a lump of clay to be molded in the fingers of every passing trickster, but to be an artist with a great idea and a trained eye and hand to execute his will on the waiting stone.

The work of the church does not grow more easy, but when she comes into full sympathy with the purpose and motive of her divinely ordained privilege she will be more than ever the will begin to realize her mission. But we shall never realize it while we are better adherents to the ratio of her membership to the population to humanity.

Finally, the church that brings back the men will be the church that has more than one service a week. Sometimes seems as though there are two services a week for the men of the church and her Christ will be the church that has no services. But there are still some interesting earnest men who are not afraid in the midst of the wild storm of buying and selling to look up into the face of love and laughter, of sorrow and sin, and to see there the face of the Christ of Nazareth, and His voice will turn their wild calm. He will, and know that I am God." Here is not an unanswerable argument to His divinity, but it is unanswerable to those who have come to see Himself to men. Anything else that intensifies the rough features of the men criticised, but when He gave Himself for them He revealed the love of the world because they saw that only love could do it. The failure of the church to bring men back to Him is simply because they have not seen Him in His everlasting kingdom in the fellowship of love.

The duty and opportunity of the church is to put forward the kingdom of love. Easily accomplished by the movement of Jesus Christ in the affections of men. Not by compulsion, not by constraint for their souls; to take to the men the revelation of the love of God. Physician who never lost a case in treating the sick. Not to teach men that the church is praying and laboring, with a divine passion to bring men to Christ, but to lead men to Christ and to the church.

Gideon carried a reputation for consummate intrepidity that night. His 300 consecrated, divinely commissioned followers enshrined themselves for all time. Their dauntless mess has become historic. They are the epitome of daring. They are synonymous with surpassing fearlessness.

Now what Gideon did in his way any consecrated soldier of the Lord Jesus Christ may do according to his opportunity and his power. The trouble is that most of us are like the 20,000 and more who went back to their tents. We are without the necessary courage. We are too much consumed with fear. We don't dare to dare. And no man can do anything who lacks heart, who lacks nerve. No man certainly can war against the principalities and powers of the empire of unrighteousness who has no faith in God, and who is lacking in a necessary degree in daring. But putting our faith and trust in Jehovah we may do anything. The God trusts those who sincerely put their trust in Him. He has faith in the faithful. It could not be otherwise. And with Him with us we need fear no obstacles. Whatever may be the difficulties and opposition that confront us He will expand our faith and courage if we will He is. And we shall find that His methods are adequate to the task of the hour.

What Love Owes to Love.

A missionary was preaching to the Maori tribe of New Zealanders. He had been telling them the sad old story of Christ—how He had poured forth His soul unto death for them, and as he concluded he laid stress on the thrilling question:

"It is nothing to you, all you who pass by?" Behold and see if there be any sorrow like unto His sorrow."

Then stood forth a plumed and painted chief, the fiercest warrior of many fights, and as his lips quivered with emotion he spoke:

"And did the Son of the Highest suffer this for us men? Then the chief would like to offer Him some poor return for His great love. Would the Son of God like to accept the chief's hunting dog?" So rich of food and keen of scent, the tribe has one such another, and he has been to the chief as a friend.

But the missionary told him that the Son had no need of such gifts. Thinking he had mistaken the gift he resumed: "Yet perhaps He would accept my well-tried rifle. Unerring in its aim, the chief cannot replace it." Again the missionary shook his head.

For a moment a cloud of grief darkened the rough features of the old chief; then, as the true nature of the love of God's dear Son dawned upon him, casting aside his blanket and his mat, he threw off his tattooing up into the blue sky, his face beaming with joy, he exclaimed:

"Perhaps the Son of the Blessed One will deign to accept the poor old chief himself!"—The Cottager and Artisan.

A Warning.

When you begin to grow lax about keeping in communion with God, when you begin to neglect your Bible and when you get too busy about other things to pray, when Satan is going to happen, something which will bring sorrow and humbling into to you.—Western Christian Advocate.

LEAPS TO TERRIBLE DEATH.

The British steamship Annette, from Kingston, Jamaica, brought news to Philadelphia of the tragic death of William Brown, a stowaway, who had been debarred from landing on the last trip of the vessel to that port. Deported by the immigration officials here, he was on his way back to Kingston and was nearing the shore, when he sought to escape by leaping overboard and swimming to the land.

Brandy had his body struck the water when dark forms were seen making toward it from the shore, and in full sight of the horrified crew a dozen sharks surrounded the helpless man. His cries quickly ceased, and in full sight of the horrified crew a dozen sharks surrounded the helpless man. His cries quickly ceased, and all that was left of him was a red stain on the water.

A shall Christ ask in vain for volunteers? Has His cause come to this, that forlorn hope—ah, not to die, but to live for Him, is all that is left for us to trust, to church of the victorious Christ!

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Jamaica punishes stowaways by compelling them to work on the public highways three months, and it was to avoid this punishment that Brown made his desperate effort to escape.

There are 38,504 unmarried women in the city of Westminster. Why not face the situation and call this place "Westspinster?"

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMENTS FOR NOV. 17 BY THE REV. L. W. HENDERSON.

Subject: Gideon and His Three Hundred, Judges 7:9-23 — Golden Text, Heb. 11:32 — Memory Verses, 17, 18.

The lesson deals with one of the famous characters of Israelitish history. It exemplifies how powerful a one God-filled soule may be in the face of seemingly insuperable difficulties. It shows how thoroughly God can help us, how thoroughly He keeps His word. It is a revelation of what we might do if we so desired.

When the armies met Gideon was outnumbered. When the battle became imminent he was in a hopeless minority. It was a handful against a multitude. But the 300 were Spirit filled, divinely chosen, consecrated. They were without fear, they had courage. And because they had courage and faith in Almighty God, because they had trust in the sovereignty of their God to deliver the Midianites into their hands they were victorious. And they won by the simplest and weakest of means. They didn't even have to use their weapons. Their bravery brought consternation to the hearts of the enemy and the rout became complete. They were disheartened and victorious because they were disheartened of the presence of God.

God had promised to deliver Midian into the hands of Israel. And He kept His word. Without His help they were powerless. He stands out differently. But when God helped the victory was assured. It didn't make any difference whether or not the Midianites and Amalekites were like the grasshoppers for number and their camels as numerous as the sands on the seas when God gave promise and aid. In that contingency numbers were a nonentity. Courage, tact and great supplies inconsequential. It was their power was augmented by the personality of God. Their strength was in no sense dependent upon the commissariat.

Gideon earned a reputation for consummate intrepidity that night. His 300 consecrated, divinely commissioned followers enshrined themselves for all time. Their dauntless mess has become historic. They are the epitome of daring. They are synonymous with surpassing fearlessness.

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EPWORTH LEAGUE LESSONS

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17.

The Natural Method—John 11: 45-52, 45-46—Personal Evangelism.

Passages for reference: John 2. 1, etc.; 4 chap.; 9. 25-38; Acts 2. 36, etc.; 26. 29; Rom. 11. 4-6; Matt. 9. 10-13.

Religion is normal to man. He needs it as the heart does oxygen. It is not a strange and unfamiliar thing. It develops with the years. It has to do with the deepest and most beautiful thoughts. It is related to all services. It unfolds and takes on new meaning under discussion. It does not wear out, and gladdened and enlightened by its facts. Everyone is spontaneously and logically interested in it. It is much misunderstood. Old notions hid it in the darkness of mystery. Many miss its helpfulness. Each person grasps various phases of it. It is never exhausted. It fits every day and demand. It is entirely reasonable and can be handled by the fingers of the mind. It is subject to be built up by, and open to reason. It is therefore a subject for natural thought. Human consideration. It is easier and more profitable to talk about it than about the weather, or the latest scandal. It makes person,